

Unfinished "verbization" - development of predicative constructions with a feminine adjective in the 17th and 18th centuries in the light of corpus data

The presentation is devoted to syntactic constructions containing adjectives in the form of feminine nominative singular, which appeared in Polish texts over the 16th-19th centuries, such as: *słuszna to uczynić* 'it is right to do this'. Of these adjective forms, only two (*można* 'it is possible' and *niepodobna* 'it is impossible') have changed their status, becoming verbs which conjugate analytically (predicatives). In other cases, the full process of "verbization" of adjective forms has not taken place. However, it is possible to trace back how it proceeded - and this is the purpose of the conducted analysis.

The research material was taken from the Electronic Corpus of 17th- and 18th-century Polish Texts, containing sources from the period in which the discussed constructions were most widespread. By means of the corpus search engine the sentences which contain the feminine adjective (alone or in combination with the noun *rzecz* 'thing') performing a predicative function have been selected. In total, the tested sample comprised 167 adjective lexemes in nearly 6.5 thousand quotations. These sentences were then subjected to additional marking in Excel, which, as well as the exact dating of each use, provide certain statistics related to the development of the constructions in question in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The survey aims to answer the following questions:

1. Which adjectives most often appeared in predicative use?
2. How has the number of such constructions changed over two centuries? Is their popularity rising/falling?
3. Is it possible to notice such changes in the structure of the sentence in the discussed period that could serve as evidence of the process of "verbization" of adjective forms: an ellipse of the noun *rzecz*, an ellipse of the pronoun *to* 'it', an ellipse of the auxiliary verb *być* 'to be' in the present tense, the change of the auxiliary verb form from feminine to neuter in the past tense and in the conditional, disappearance of gradation? All these features characterize contemporary sentences with adjective predicatives, so it should be assumed that the process that led to the transformation of adjective forms *można* and *niepodobna* could have been similar in the case of other adjectives.

Significant differences between the studied adjective forms can be expected, both in terms of their frequency in predicative constructions and their gaining the characteristics of verbs. Forms *można* and *niepodobna* will probably be most represented, and the process leading to their full "verbization" will be the furthest.

Due to the lack of large corpora covering the period before the 17th and after the 18th centuries, it is not possible to examine in the manner described above the whole period, in which predicative constructions with a feminine adjective appeared. However, certain trends in the development of these constructions, which will be shown in this study, will be verified using the data collected in the dictionaries of the 16th and 19th centuries.

References

Bajerowa, I. (1968). *Frekwencja form i badanie procesów historycznojęzykowych*. "Biuletyn Polskiego Towarzystwa Językoznawczego" XLI, 69–81.

Bańko, M. (2001). *Z pogranicza leksykografii i językoznawstwa*, Warszawa.

- Bronikowska, R. (2017). *Predykatywne konstrukcje z przymiotnikiem w rodzaju żeńskim w dawnej polszczyźnie – perspektywy badawcze*, "Prace Filologiczne" LXXI, 33-44.
- Kałkowska, A. (1973). *Składniowe właściwości przymiotników kwalifikujących*. "Język Polski" 2, 95-104.
- Kosek, I. (2002). *Jeszcze o predykatywach*, "Prace Językoznawcze" 4, 39-45.
- Laskowski, R. (1984). *Podstawowe pojęcia morfologii* (in:) R. Grzegorzczakowa, R. Laskowski, H. Wróbel (eds.) *Gramatyka współczesnego języka polskiego. Morfologia*, Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 9-57.
- Ostaszewska, D. (ed.), (2002). *Polszczyzna XVII wieku. Stan i przeobrażenia*. Katowice: "Śląsk".
- Pisarkowa, K. (1984). *Historia składni języka polskiego*. Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich.
- Przepiórkowski, A. (2019). *Status gramatyczny predykatywnych SZKODA, WSTYD, ŻAL raz jeszcze*, "Polonica" 39, 85-110.
- Saloni, Z. (1974). *Klasyfikacja gramatyczna leksemów polskich*, "Język Polski" 2, 93–101.
- Szupryczyńska, M. (1995). *Jeszcze o tzw. „predykatywach przysłówkowych”*, "Polonica" 17, 173-187.
- Wiśniewski, M. (1989). *Status gramatyczny tzw. przysłówków odprzymiotnikowych typu duszno, wolno, nieprzyjemnie*, "Polonica" 14, 183-191.
- Wiśniewski, M. (1992). *Status gramatyczny wyrażen typu ŻAL, WSTYD, SZKODA*, "Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Filologia Polska" XXXVIII, Nauki Humanistyczno-Społeczne, vol. 243, 25-44.
- Wróbel, H. (1988). *Przysłówki w strukturze formalnej polskich zdań*, "Folia Philologica Jugoslavo-Polonica" 1, 70-82.